

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

[0009] However, according to this method, if the main subject extracted by using the result of the combination and the extraction results by the auxiliary subject extractions still does not satisfy the predetermined acceptance criteria, further auxiliary subject extractions having different characteristics are required to perform. Therefore, depending on reliability of the result of the original subject extraction, a lot of additional auxiliary subject extractions are required to [[perform]] be performed. In addition, it is necessary always to decide whether or not the result of the combination satisfies the predetermined acceptance criteria. Therefore, the number of processes to be performed simultaneously (i.e., for one frame) increases, and a processing speed becomes very slow as a result.

Please amend paragraph [0100] as follows:

[0100] This Sobel plane SB is smoothed by filtering [[by]] using a smoothing filter shown in the equation (7) below (#142).

$$QS(i, j) = \left(\sum_{m=-2}^2 \sum_{n=-2}^2 (KS(m, n) \times Sbl(i + m, J + n)) \right) \dots\dots (7)$$